

Wycombe have 3-1 victory in home game

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W. 3 : WALTHAMSTOW A. 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers showed excellent form in their Isthmian League game against Walthamstow Avenue at High Wycombe today, but after they had claimed an early lead the visitors equalised just before half-time. Wycombe went on to win 3-1.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown, Beck, Moring, Truett, Fisher, Fryer, Atkins, Trott, James, Bates, Free.

Walthamstow: McGuire, Betts, Edwards, Andrews, Prince, Keenes, Groves, Minall, Lewis, English, Harvey.

Early exchanges were dominated by Wycombe and Bates delighted the crowd with several promising runs. One of them gave Atkins a chance from which he shot inches wide.

A defensive error endangered the Walthamstow goal and Trott almost bundled the ball over.

Then Atkins squared the ball to give Free a clear shot, but McGuire flung himself yards to save brilliantly.

Ten minutes after the start, however, Atkins made another high speed wing run and this time TROTT met his centre to score from close in.

JUST WIDE

A shot by Bates fell just wide of the upright and James also missed narrowly in repeated Wycombe raids.

In spite of the heat, the home forwards maintained a cracking pace, peppering the visitors' goal from all angles, while in defence Fisher shone in a back division which gave the Avenue men little room to move.

At the other end, when Brown scrambled away a shot by Lewis, the referee rejected Walthamstow's claims that the ball had hit the inside of the netting.

The Avenue had more of the play towards the interval, and

Wycombe had another narrow escape when Brown saved at point-blank range from English.

But just on half-time another swift raid on the left wing ended in HARVEY smacking in an equaliser from long range.

Half-time: Wycombe W. 1, Walthamstow 1.

TWICE NEAR

With Wycombe attacking strongly again in the second half, Atkins twice went near after determined right wing runs, with no other Wycombe forward to support him.

Then Wycombe were awarded a penalty after a shot by right back J. Beck had been scrambled away and BATES scored from the spot to restore the home lead after 12 minutes.

Wycombe increased their lead in the 65th minute when Atkins, taking a pass from Trott, centred hard across the goal for FREE to head the ball down and over the line.

Another classic Wycombe move almost brought a fourth but goalkeeper McGuire fell to his knees to block a powerful shot by James from Free's path.

Walthamstow seemed unable to sustain their attacks against Wycombe's quick tackling.

UNLUCKY

Their occasional raids, however, always looked dangerous, and Lewis was unlucky once with a shot which cannoned off the upright.

Wycombe were still attacking strongly in the closing stages of the gruelling tussle, and McGuire saved well from James in the last few minutes.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 3
WALTHAMSTOW 1

WYCOMBE FIRE HALTS AVENUE COMEBACK

Wycombe 3, Walthamstow 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS maintained a cracking pace despite the heat and proved too much for Walthamstow Avenue in a gruelling Isthmian League game at High Wycombe.

Except for a brief spell just before half-time when Walthamstow made a desperate attempt to turn the tide Wycombe were always the masters.

The Wycombe inside men, Bates and Trott, were more successful than the Walthamstow pair, English and Minall. After Trott had given the home side the lead after 10 minutes Walthamstow were kept in the defensive by swift raids from the Wycombe wingmen, Free and Atkins.

But Wycombe had a succession of escapes when Walthamstow rallied.

In the last seconds of the half Harvey equalised with a cracking shot from the left wing.

Wycombe soon regained their early confidence. Centre half Fisher kept a close check on Lewis and the Avenue's attacks were limited to sporadic raids. Wycombe on the other hand showed better co-ordination.

Walthamstow defended doggedly against a fast moving home attack and a penalty provided the turning point 10 minutes after the restart. A shot from right back John Beck was apparently handled in the area and Bates scored from the spot to end Wycombe's succession of three penalty misses in recent games.

Later Wycombe took command again and after Free had scored a third from a pass by Atkins only the agility of goalkeeper McGuire saved the Avenue from a heavier defeat.